

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1. (currently amended) A process for producing a synthetic fiber fabric having a translucent pattern thereon, comprising

printing a paste which, after etching, results in translucency of the fabric, comprising a transparent printing developer onto a surface of the synthetic fiber fabric to form a printed fabric with a printed pattern thereon ~~without dyeing the fabric~~, wherein the paste comprises a transparent printing developer, and the said transparent printing developer is a quarternary ammonium salt;

and, after formation of the printed pattern, treating the printed fabric with an etching agent the transparent printing developer accelerating etching of the fabric homogeneously, so as to form the fabric having the translucent pattern thereon.

Claim 2. (canceled)

Claim 3. (previously presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the etching agent is sodium hydroxide, sodium hydrogen carbonate or sodium carbonate.

Claim 4. (withdrawn) A synthetic fiber fabric having translucent printing patterns thereon.

Claim 5. (withdrawn) A synthetic fiber fabric according to claim 4, which is produced from the process of for producing a synthetic fiber fabric having translucent printing (dyeing) patterns thereon, comprising a printing step prior to an etching step, wherein the printing step

comprises printing a paste for dyeing and/or printing comprising a transparent printing developer onto a surface of the fabric.

Claim 6. (currently amended) A process for producing a translucent pattern on a synthetic fiber fabric, comprising the steps of:

(a) printing a paste which, after etching, results in translucency of the fabric,
~~comprising a transparent printing developer~~ onto a surface of the synthetic fiber fabric to form a printed pattern thereon ~~without dyeing the fabric~~, wherein the paste comprises a transparent printing developer, and the ~~said~~ transparent printing developer is a quarternary ammonium salt;

(b) treating the printed fabric of step (a) to bond the paste comprising the transparent printing developer to the surface of the synthetic fiber fabric; and

(c) treating the printed fabric with an etching agent;

whereby the transparent printing developer accelerates the etching agent thereby forming the printed pattern into the translucent pattern on the synthetic fiber fabric.

Claim 7. (canceled)

Claim 8. (previously presented) A process according to claim 6, wherein the etching agent is sodium hydroxide, sodium hydrogen carbonate or sodium carbonate.

Claim 9. (previously presented) A process according to claim 6, wherein the transparent printing developer is 1 to 50 weight percent of the paste.

Claim 10. (previously presented) A process according to claim 9, wherein the transparent printing developer is 3 to 15 weight percent of the paste.

Claim 11. (previously presented) A process according to claim 6 further comprising the step of drying the printed fabric after the printing step (a).

Claim 12. (previously presented) A process according to claim 6, wherein the treating step (b) comprises the step of drying the fabric at a temperature from 50°C to 210°C.

Claim 13. (previously presented) A process according to claim 6, wherein the treating step (b) comprises the step of fixing the fabric at a temperature from 100°C to 210°C.

Claim 14. (currently amended) A process for producing a translucent pattern on a fabric comprising synthetic fibers, the process comprising

printing a paste which, after etching, results in translucency of the fabric, comprising a transparent printing developer onto select surfaces of the fabric to form a printed fabric with a printed pattern thereon ~~without dyeing the fabric~~, wherein the paste comprises a transparent printing developer, and the said transparent printing developer is a quarternary ammonium salt;

and, after formation of the printed pattern, etching the printed fabric in a tank comprising an etching agent, the transparent printing developer accelerating etching of the fabric homogeneously, to provide a difference in transparenance between the select surfaces and other surfaces of the fabric that do not contain the printing developer thereby to form the

translucent pattern on the fabric.

Claim 15. (canceled)

Claim 16. (previously presented) The process according to claim 14, wherein the etching agent is sodium hydroxide, sodium hydrogen carbonate or sodium carbonate.

Claim 17. (new) A process according to claim 1, wherein the paste consists essentially of the transparent printing developer.

Claim 18. (new) A process according to claim 6, wherein the paste consists essentially of the transparent printing developer.

Claim 19. (new) A process according to claim 14, wherein the paste consists essentially of the transparent printing developer.